

Staff Report
April 25, 2023

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Growing our Economy

3.1 Attract Accommodations

We continue to facilitate discussions between a hotel management and development company and a local developer in the hopes of increasing the number of accommodations in the Municipality.

3.2 Invest in our Beaches and Parks

Last month, we have reviewed our Beaches Strategy and its outstanding objectives. Based on this review, we have developed a plan for the next 12 months which includes restarting regular meetings with our Beach Resource Team – the first of which is on April 25, continuing our stewardship work through a partnership with Birds Canada on the Beach Ambassador program and continuing our efforts on making Stoney Island an accessible beach.

In addition to this work, the draft budget currently includes wells for Stoney Island and North East Point beaches and power at Stoney Island Beach.

3.3 Improved Cell Service

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.4 Municipal Property Development

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.5 Renewable Energy

Nothing new to report at this time.

2. Investing in our People

2.1 Community Health Centre

The Request for Proposals for architect services to undertake the next phase of work for a Community Health Centre closes this Thursday, April 27. The link to the RFP is the following: <https://procurement-portal.novascotia.ca/tenders/MODB2305>.

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2.2 Doctor Recruitment & Retention

Nothing new to report at this time.

2.3 Public Transit

We continue to support Sou'West Nova Transit Association (SWNTA) and have recently posted an RFP on their behalf to the Province's procurement website. The SWNTA is inviting qualified consultants/facilitators/firms to submit a proposal to help develop a Shelburne County Collaborative Transportation Solutions Implementation Plan, bringing together participating town/municipal units of Shelburne County and key stakeholders to work on the planning and development of transportation solutions that will benefit all residents, based on common priorities. The project is funded through the Government of Canada's Rural Transit Solutions Fund - Planning and Design Projects stream (<https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/rural-trans-rural/index-eng.html>).

3. Strengthening our Communities

3.1 Infrastructure Renewal

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.2 Housing

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.3 Improved Wastewater Services

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.4 Accessibility

Our Accessibility Advisory Committee continues its work. At the last meeting, the Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan for 2022-2025 which was released on December 19, 2022, was presented. The new plan builds on the 2018-2021 plan and provides a roadmap of what government will do over the next 3 years to advance accessibility.

A priority list of issues identified during the assessment of buildings was also presented. Items have been separated into three categories: Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term.

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Some concerns we've heard include the discontinuation of the sidewalk in front of the Petro-Canada Service Station, in Barrington Passage and a meeting has been scheduled with officials of the Department of Public Works to see if there are any solutions.

3.5 Diversity and Inclusion

Nothing new to report at this time.

4. Operating Efficiently

4.1 Develop an Employee Retention Program

Nothing new to report at this time.

4.2 Create an Economic Development Office

Nothing new to report at this time.

4.3 Consider the Expansion of the C&D Site

The final draft of the 2023/2024 budget includes funds to undertake a life cycle assessment of our Site. The results of this assessment will help us determine what steps will be required to continue its operation into the future.

4.4 Transparency

Nothing new to report at this time.

5. Keeping Barrington Moving

5.1 Enhance Recreation Programs

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.2 Sherose Island Recreation Complex Strategy

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.3 Increase the Number of Outdoor Spaces Strategy

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.4 Trail Expansion

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The Sherose Island Nature Trail saw 892 people in the month of March. The highest single day was 205 on March 17.

5.5 Sidewalk Expansion

Nothing new to report at this time.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM MARCH 28TH TO APRIL 24TH, 2023

TOPICS

Budget

The budget has been one of the main priorities in the last three months. Council reviewed the first draft of the operating and capital budgets on March 11 and discussed adjustments on March 21 and April 11. The final draft of the budgets which include the feedback received during these meetings is attached to the agenda for approval.

Tax Bills

The interim tax bills were issued the first week of April and are due May 15, 2023. This bill represents 50% of a calculation based on the current year's taxable assessment and the last tax rate set by Council along with 50% of the previous year's sewer service charge, when applicable.

Shelburne County Lobster Fest

Lobster Festival plans are well underway. Most events this year are scheduled from June 7-11. This year we have the Tinkers Challenge, now renamed to the Benjamin Ross Memorial Tinkers Challenge in collaboration with Kevin Ross. The Great Lobsterman Challenge, Trivia Night, the Lobster Fest Market, which has over 50 vendors already registered and a Tide Kite event at the North East Point Beach. We also have events planned by the Barrington Leisure Park (Family Fun Day and Lobster Races), a Seal Island Breakfast by the Island and Barrington Passage Fire Department and a dance hosted by the Barrington Curling Club.

2023 Tourism Season Preparations and Marketing

We have partnered with the Municipality of Shelburne on a Saltscapes booth, as well we have created a Festivals and Events postcard this year, that was distributed at Saltscapes and will be distributed throughout the VIC's and businesses this year. We partnered with the Burger Bash in Shelburne this year as well, and are looking at ways to expand that County wide next year. We have also developed Tent Cards that will be distributed to the local restaurants and accommodations (and any other businesses who would like them) that is promoting the ShelburneCounty.ca website and encourages people to log in (QR code) to discover what else there is to do while in the area. We will be

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collaborating on a few more projects this year to encourage visitation and experiencing more of what we have to offer.

We are also working with the Town of Shelburne and various partners on the Cruise Ship visits this year. We have met a few times and are working on ways to extend the bus tours into the Municipality. There are 9 cruise ship visits planned for this year beginning in May.

Nova Scotia Marathon

The Marathon Committee has been working hard and are seeing extremely good response from participants. Registration numbers were 262 at the April meeting – which is almost identical to the numbers at this same point last year. The Marathon Committee along with Mile East administering the event, is working incredibly well and we are very happy with the arrangement.

Recreation Programming

The Municipal Volunteer Recognition Ceremony was held last Thursday, April 20, in conjunction with National Volunteer Week. Eleven community volunteers were honored representing dozens of community organizations. Submissions to the Provincial Volunteer Awards are due in May for recognition at the provincial event on September 25. We will forward all details on the nominations received so Council members may make its decision on who will represent Barrington at this event.

Misty completed the Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid certification on April 16. This is the level of first aid required by the School Insurance Program for some outdoor activities with students so is recommended for higher risk programs involving outtripping, hiking, camping and paddling.

We partnered with the Barrington Farmers Market to celebrate Earth Day with “Seedling Saturday” on April 22. This was hosted at the Sherose Island Recreation Centre and will be an annual event in the future.

Summer staff applications have been received and prospective leaders will be contacted for interviews over the following few weeks. We have a number of returning students in both our camp programming and aquatics, which is great news for being able to add programming and

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adapt to community needs. We have applied for Canada Summer Jobs funding to assist us in covering some salary costs and usually find out in May what funding is approved.

We have met with the Community Garden participants and are working to clear some of the beds of overgrowth and build up some beds for accessibility. Many have stepped up to take care of mowing and garbage removal. The gardeners mainly start after the long weekend in May.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From March 19 to April 15, 26 permits were issued for a total value of \$1,762,000. This is an increase of \$1,234,000 compared to the same period last year. 62 building inspections along with four fire inspections were carried out during this period.

Four new civic numbers were issued, and six homes or businesses were visited to discuss civic numbering.

We received one new subdivision application and sent one for registration. We presently have four outstanding subdivisions that we continue to work on.

Four new by-law complaints were received. This leaves us with seven open complaints that we continue to work on.

Finally, we continue to develop our new e-permitting software. We are currently tweaking the system and we hope to have it implemented at some point this year.

Fire Services & Emergency Management

The WSH's hall renovations are now complete.

This past month, our Coordinator attended the FSANS conference and a fire investigation with the deputy fire marshal. He taught a pump operator, safety officer, basic emergency management and ICS 200 courses.

On the EMO front, our attended another regional exercise planning meeting. The regional exercise is being facilitated by the EMONS and will be in the Counties of Queens and Shelburne.

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Otherwise, our Coordinator continues to help fire departments develop their budgets, to monitor COVID-19 updates from the province and EMONS and performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

This past March, the Fire Departments responded to 16 calls, compared to 11 in March 2022. Here is the data for this past month:

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS March 2023							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	3	1				1	5
Island Barrington Passage FD	3	1				3	7
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD				4			4
TOTALS	6	2		4		4	16
B/PLT - 1 grass, 1 Structure, 1 electrical							
IBP - 1 dryer fire, 2 grass							
WH/SH-							



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CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Here is an update on our 2022-2023 Capital Projects:

Rank	Project	Status
2	Arena Rubber Flooring Dressing Rooms	In Progress
7	Admin Office Parking Lot Resurface & Curbs	In Progress
9	Healthcare Centre	In Progress
10	Recreation Centre (21/22)	In Progress
13	Municipal Admin Building Accessibility (21/22)	In Progress
1	Barrington Ballfield Aluminum Seating	Completed
3	Stoney Island Accessible Mats & Wheelchairs	Completed
4	Property Services 3/4 Ton Truck	Completed
5	Property Services Equipment	Completed
6	Solar Speed Sign	Completed
8	Council AV System	Completed
11	Brass Hill Clarifier & Screens (21/22)	Completed
12	Landfill Truck Scale (21/22)	Completed
14	Property Services Building (21/22)	Completed

